

REMARKS

Claims 78 -80 have been added. Claims 19 and 66 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and objections is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claim 66 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claim 66 has been amended to obviate the rejection by replacing the claim phrase "just prior to" with "immediately prior to." Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 19-27 and 66-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2005/0057680 to Agan ("Agan"). The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claim 19 relates to a method for operating a first pixel cell comprising, *inter alia*, "accumulating charge at a photoconversion device during an integration period; resetting a charge collection region with a reset transistor during a reset period, wherein said integration period and said reset period occur while a row select transistor in the first pixel cell is activated;" and "removing residual charge remaining in said photoconversion device. . .[by] activating said reset transistor and [a] transfer transistor prior to a subsequent integration period." According to these features of the claimed invention, the reset transistor is separately used to reset the charge collection region and to remove residual charge in the photoconversion device prior to a second integration period; moreover, the integration period and the reset period for the first pixel cell occurs "while a row select transistor in the first pixel cell is activated."

Unlike the claimed invention, Agan illustrates (in FIG. 4) and describes (in the accompanying text), the resetting of a photoconversion device for an imager that is operated using a mechanical shutter to control the exposure of the pixel cells to light across the entire array. As such, according to Agan, the simultaneous activation of the transfer transistor gate (26) and reset transistor gate (28) is performed to begin the integration period for the pixel cells, and the reset and integration periods do not occur "while a row select transistor in the first pixel cell is activated."

For at least these reasons, Agan does not anticipate the claimed invention, as embodied by independent claim 19. Claims 20-27, 66-72, and 78-80 depend from claim 19 and are also allowable for at least the above reasons.

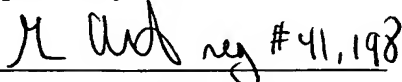
The rejection should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 19 and 20 stand provisionally rejected on non-statutory double patenting grounds in light of claims 20 and 21 in Agan. For at least the reasons given above, claims 19 and 20 of the present application are patentably distinct from the disclosure and claims 20 and 21 in Agan. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are requested.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: September 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By  #41,198

Thomas J. D'Amico (28,371)

Megan S. Woodworth (53,655)

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP

1825 Eye Street, NW

Washington, DC 20006-5403

(202) 420-2200

Attorneys for Applicant